



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WANAMAKER BUILDING, 100 PENN SQUARE EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107-3390

Environmental Resources Branch

FEB 09 2009

Mr. Stanley W. Gorski
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory
74 Magruder Road, Sandy Hook
Highlands, New Jersey 07732

Dear Mr. Gorski:

This correspondence is written to initiate formal consultation under the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provision Section 305 (b)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended for the Delaware River Main Stem and Channel Deepening Project, Delaware, New Jersey and, Pennsylvania. Some aspects of this project have the potential to adversely effect EFH; however, all significant adverse impacts can be eliminated by avoiding times of year that are critical for sensitive life stages of managed species.

Please review the attached Essential Fish Habitat Evaluation and provide any comments, including conservation recommendation requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Pasquale of my staff at (215) 656-6560 or at Jerry.J.Pasquale@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minas M. Arabatzis", is written over the typed name and title.

Minas M. Arabatzis
Chief, Planning Division

Attachment